

Conversation.

More are

Talking is very singular. Men and women get together and talk. They cannot even stay long ^{together} near one another without talking, according to the rules of polite society. Not that they communicate what they have to say, or do anything natural or important to be done, but by common consent they fall ^{into} the invention of speech and make a conversation good or bad. They say things first this one and then that one. They express their opinions - nor must long periods of silence occur. Sometimes they come over many thousand miles of land and water for this purpose mainly. I have been when conversations were ^{coastally} ^{I have seen a hundred men} ^{at once} ^{restored} and even were so wholly given over to talk, that they seemed to forget that they had other organs than tongues and ears, as if they could eject themselves like bits of pack thread from the ^{top of the tongue} ^{next we} mouth. It is very much as if the trees when I go into the woods should all set their leaves a rustling. As if I only came to hear that. A man may be an object of interest & we though his tongue be plucked out by the root.

I am very much indebted to those who re-
gure that I should talk. They who cannot
live near me without ~~great~~ ^{much} pleasure without
my words, I do not live near but at
the antipodes of. I may have a good
deal still without having anything to say.
Indeed the larger allowance of anything unless
it be nonsense, is none I speak of.

By a well directed silence I have sometimes
seen threatening and troublesome persons routed.
You sit ^{unconsciously & unaccountably} missing as if you were in broad
nature again. They cannot stand it
their position becomes more and more
uncomfortable every moment. So much
humanity over against me without
any disguise, not even the disguise of
speech. Both a little silence thing
take shape as they should.

Sometimes I have listened so attentively
to the whole expression and utterance
of a man, with such absorbed interest,
that I did not hear one word he
was saying, and saying too with the
more vivacity - we observing my attention.
But after all he thought I did not
hear. The fact was I heard him
pour more words than ever from his side
stained him words of all their meanings
and all the rest he knew.

the whole I heard all his experience. I
listened at the same key & spoke with him-
self - struck by speech with him.

Not only ^{most} men talk ^{and} for
the most part ^{about} talk ^{even} about
books or dead and buried talk. Sometimes

Sometimes my friend expects a few
periods from me, and is he exhortant? He
thinks he has delivered his opinion and now
it is my turn - but I made no bargain.
He thinks he has said a good thing but
I don't see the difference, he looks just as
he did before. Well, if he has it is no
loss I suppose - he can ^{plenty} more.

Then I have seen very near and intimate
very old friends - introduced by very old strangers
with liberty given to talk. The stranger
who knows only the counter sign, say,
Jonas - Eldrad, giving those names
which will make a little good in a
court of law (we may presume that
God does not know the Christian names of
men) - Then Jonas like a ready soldier
makes a remark, a benediction on
the weather it may be - and Eldrad
swiftly responds and in his heart his heart,
and so the action is begun. They
bless God and nature many times
gratuitously - and part mutually.

well pleased - leaving them cars. They
did not happen to be present at
each others' christening. But better
late than never.

➤ There is good society and there is bad.

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